(d) the steps being taken for the faculty development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) the faculty strength is 325;

(b) and (c) Ultimate responsibility for producing all course material and conducting all academic activities is that of the University faculty. Services of outside experts are utilized, to the extent necessary, for consultation as well as for writing course material in collaboration with in-house faculty.

(d) The University has a comprehensive faculty development programme, wherein all new teachers are oriented in principles of curriculum design and material development, and periodic refresher courses are also held.

Primary education in Tamil Nadu

3807. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of primary education in Tamil Nadu as a result of implementation of welfare schemes like free distribution of text books, free education and Mid-day Meal Scheme; and

(b) the time by when the target of cent per cent literacy is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As reported by Government of Tamil Nadu, the implementation of welfare schemes like free distribution of text books, free education and Mid-day Meal have resulted in improvement in the following manner:

(i) Net Enrolment Rate (NER) at primary level has increased from 93% in 2002 to 98.48% in 2005 (5.48% increase).

(ii) The Completion Rate has increased from 64% in 2002 to 77.57% in 2005 (13.57% increase).

(iii) The repetition rate has decreased from 24% in 2002 to 18.62% in 2005 (5.38% decrease).

(iv) The drop-out rate has been reduced from 12% to 3.82% (8.19% decrease).

(v) The attendance rate has improved from 91% in 2002 to 96% in 2005 (5% increase)

(vi) Around 4.5 lakh out-of-school children have been brought into the mainstream school system during the last four years.

(b) The State's target of cent per cent literacy is by 2015.

Recruitment of Punjabi teachers

3808. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Punjabi language under the scheme of recruitment of language teachers;

(b) the number of Punjabi teachers appointed in each State;

(c) the proposals pending in his Ministry; and

(d) the steps Government would take in these States for teaching Punjabi Language considering the fact that Punjabi is second language in Delhi and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Under the scheme of financial assistance for "Appointment of Language Teachers", there is a provision for recruitment of teachers of Modern Indian Languages including Punjabi, to teach the third language in those schools of the Hindi speaking States/U.Ts that demand them.

(b) No Punjabi teachers have been appointed under the scheme in any of the State.

(c) No proposal for appointment of Punjabi teachers is pending in the Ministry.

(d) It is for the State Governments to send proposals for appointment